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IBIC Applauds Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana and Chairman Frank Haney for Rejecting an ICE immigrant detention center at the Winnebago County Jail

Rockford, Illinois - The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition applauds Winnebago Sheriff Caruana and County Chairman Haney for rejecting an ICE immigrant detention center at the Winnebago County Jail. Sheriff Caruana announced his decision today at a press conference in Rockford. Sheriff Caruana stated that ICE could not meet the 5 basic principles that he outlined for an immigrant detention center at his county jail.

IBIC thanks Sheriff Caruana and Chairman Haney for thoughtfully and carefully listening to business, faith, civic and the Latino community of Winnebago County and across Illinois that united in their opposition to an ICE detention center. IBIC thanks Sheriff Caruana and Chairman Haney for valuing community and police relations over fiscally murky revenue.

"Sheriff Caruana and Chairman Haney made the fiscally smart, economically important and morally right decision today to reject an ICE detention center at the Winnebago County Jail," said Rebecca Shi, executive director of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition "We must continue to work to pass comprehensive immigration reform that will generate the much needed revenue for counties and towns across Illinois. Immigration reform will create jobs, grow the economy and keep families together."

IBIC thanks Republican leader Tom Cross, Exelon Chairman Emeritus John Rowe, every Democrat Gubernatorial candidate - Ameya Pawar, Daniel Biss, JB Pritzker and Chris Kennedy for publicly opposing the ICE detention center.

IBIC thanks Jerome Stermer, Chief of Staff to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn (2009-2015) who strongly recommended Winnebago not to sign a contract with ICE. Governor Quinn terminated Illinois's contract with ICE after ICE's own data showed that less than 1 out of 5 people deported from Illinois had been convicted of a serious crime. Majority of the people they deported from Illinois did not have any criminal records. Just last week, ICE's own data showed that they detained 10,800 immigrants with ZERO criminal records in the first 100 days of this administration, a 150% increase from last year. ICE has a history of misleading the public about its deportation activities right here in Illinois. IBIC applauds Winnebago Sheriff and County Board for not repeating the past.

Most importantly, IBIC would like to congratulate the Coalition of Latino Leaders of Rockford, the No Immigrant Detention in Winnebago Campaign, and all the local partners for their effective organizing that resulted in 4 forums with hundreds of residents and petition collection of over 1000 signatures opposed to the ICE detention.

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About IBIC: The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition promotes commonsense immigration reform that advances Illinois economic competitiveness, provides Illinois companies with both the high-skilled and low-skilled talent they need, and allows the integration of immigrants into our economy as consumers, workers, entrepreneurs and citizens. For more information please visit www.illinoisbic.biz